

Fulton House
Fulton, Texas

HABS No. Tex-3116

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Texas-3

Historic American Buildings Survey
Bartlett Cooke, District Officer
615 Maverick Bldg., San Antonio, Texas

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FULTON HOUSE
Fulton, Arenas County, Texas.

Present Owner: J.W. Davidson

Date of Erection: 1870

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Col. G.W. Fulton

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Three and basement

Materials of Construction: Oyster shell concrete reinforced with railroad rails; Florida heart pine and cypress.

Other Existing Records: Marker erected by the Texas Centennial Association.

Additional Data:

Col. G.W. Fulton, builder of this house, was president of the Coleman, Matris, Fulton Cattle Co., later known as the Taft Ranch, which consisted of 160,000 acres. He was the cousin of Robert Fulton, the inventor of the steam ship. Col. Fulton's wife was Harriett Smith Fulton, daughter of Henry Smith, who was the first Provisional Governor of Texas. Mr. Smith gave his daughter and son-in-law the site for this house, which was a part of an old Mexican grant.

The house has twenty rooms. The foundation is constructed of oyster shell concrete reinforced with railroad rails. The walls are constructed of 2" x 6" heart pine laid flat, one upon the other, tied together with 1" iron bolts every 14" from the first floor sill through to the roof. On the interior these 2" x 6"'s were beveled to form a better key for the plaster. The exterior is sheathed with 1" x 4" tongue and grooved, cypress siding. The roof is a Mansard type, covered with the original slate.

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The first floor consists of a parlor, conservatory, entrance hall, rear parlor, stair hall, dining room, butler's pantry, front and rear porches. The second floor has four bed rooms, one bath room and one hall. The third floor has four bed rooms, two bath rooms and one hall. The basement consists of a kitchen, furnace room, cooling room, storage room, cistern room and a niche for the gas plant. Col. Fulton manufactured his own gas for domestic consumption. There was a dumb waiter from the kitchen in the basement to the butler's pantry on the first floor. The interior of the house is plastered with a material which resembles plaster of paris. The windows are all double hung, two lights, and are equipped with interior folding blinds which recess into the jambs when the blinds are open. All doors are of cypress; paneling varies from standard types.

Each of the eight bed rooms has an individual lavatory built of marble and walnut. The house contains seven fireplaces. The mantel of the fireplace in the northeast room on the first floor is Italian ebony; all other mantels are marble. The fireplaces appear to be ordinary fireplaces, but in reality are hot air radiators. The house has three complete bath rooms, equipped with plumbing fixtures shipped in from the east. The stair rail, balusters and newel are walnut and excellently designed. Above the Italian ebony mantel in the Northeast room is a clear mirror approximately 6' x 9'. The glass chandelier in this room is original; it was imported from Europe. The chandelier and the corresponding bracket lights are gas burning. Floor in this room, as well as floors in the hall and the southwest room, are tile.

The stable is located approximately 75 yards west of the house. Its excellent craftsmanship reflects Gothic and Swiss influence.

Materials were imported from Florida, Louisiana and the East. Workmen were imported from the East.

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Bertlett Cocks, Dist. Officer

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